



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at:

<http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/ccfc/>.

How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact Information Resources & Government Publications at (916-654-0081; csinfo@library.ca.gov).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Pre-K Pinch: Early Education and the Middle Class. By Albert Wat, Pre-K Now. (Pre-K Now, Washington, DC) November 2008. 28 p.

[“State prekindergarten programs reserved for low-income students are squeezing out thousands of middle-class families unable to afford early education, according to a national study.... The study breaks down the cost of basic living expenses for middle-class families in the 20 states where pre-k is only for low-income children. It found that prekindergarten is the single largest expense for middle-class families of four, taking up nearly 30 percent of monthly spending.... Most states with publicly run pre-k programs have targeted services to poor children because they need the most help to be ready for kindergarten. But the study shows that middle-income children also are behind in reading, writing and math when compared with their upper-income peers.... That kind of gap creates problems throughout a child's school career and can determine what happens to that child down the road.” Associated Press (November 13, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.preknow.org/documents/pre-kpinch_Nov2008_report.pdf

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“First Book, First Step to Literacy: Nonprofit Provides Reading Material for Low-Income Children.” By Karen Goldberg Goff. IN: The Washington Times (November 12, 2008) 1 p.

[“First Book... is a nonprofit that has put more than 60 million books in the hands of low-income children since its founding in 1992.... A look at the statistics shows First Book is a much-needed concept. Studies by Susan B. Neuman... show that in low-income neighborhoods, there is an average of one book for every 300 children. In middle-income neighborhoods, there is an average of 13 books for every child. Ms. Neuman’s studies also have found that 80 percent of preschools and after-school programs serving low-income populations have no age-appropriate books for their children. Access to books can have a critical impact on the future of low-income children. Ms. Neuman’s studies of 100,000 school-age children nationwide found that access to books - and not poverty - is the critical variable affecting learning to read.”]

Full text at:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/nov/12/first-book-first-step-to-literacy/>

Full text of Neuman study:

(“Access to Print in Low-Income and Middle-Income Communities: An Ecological Study of Four Neighborhoods.”)

<http://www.sbneuman.com/pdf/AccessToPrint.pdf>

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The Economic Power of Early Care and Education. By the Insight Center for Community Economic Development. (The Center, Oakland, California) Website.

[“Viewing early care and education (ECE) as an economic issue, as well as a social and educational one, sparks systemic change in investment strategies, policies, and programs. This Insight Community is a resource for leaders in ECE, economic development, business, and government to share information, solve problems, and continue to boost the economic power of ECE. We have included selected state profiles, materials, and key topics that offer innovative strategies, tools, and practices to stimulate thought and replication of successes. We will continue to add materials as new ideas, successes, and lessons learned emerge.”]

Website at: <http://www.insightcced.org/index.php?page=ecepower>

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Bright Futures: Early Childhood Developments in the States. (Entire issue.) By the NGA Center for Best Practices. Vol. 2, No. 2. (National Governors' Association, Washington, DC) Fall 2008. 9 p.

[“This edition of ‘Bright Futures’ highlights 12 states that have received grants to support the development of an Early Childhood Advisory Council. Other features of this edition include announcements of state early childhood system developments and recent publications.”]

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0810BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF>

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IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Still Working Hard, Still Falling Short: New Findings on the Challenges Confronting America's Working Families. By Brandon Roberts and Deborah Povich. (The Working Poor Families Project, Brandon Roberts + Associates, Chevy Chase, Maryland) [2008.] 8 p.

[“More than one in four working families - a total of 42 million adults and children - are low-income, earning too little to meet their basic needs, according to a new report. ‘Still Working Hard, Still Falling Short,’ a follow-up to the 2004 report ‘Working Hard, Falling Short,’ found that an additional 350,000 working families were low-income in 2006 compared to 2002. The report also found increasing income inequality, with a widening gap between the share of income the highest-earning families receive and that earned by the least affluent. This increase in income disparity and in the number of low-income working families came during a period of economic expansion, suggesting that those numbers will continue to grow during this economic downturn.... The report provides in-depth national and 50 state data on low-income working families and the challenges they face, including information about education levels, racial makeup, the number of children, housing costs and health insurance coverage.” The Working Poor Families Project, press release (October 14, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org/pdfs/NatReport08.pdf>

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Reading, Writing and Hungry: The Consequences of Food Insecurity on Children, and on our Nation's Economic Success. By Carolyn Murphy, Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program, and others. (Partnership for America's Economic Success, Washington, DC) November 2008.

[“Children who go hungry in kindergarten are noticeably behind their peers in reading and math by third grade. Hungry children suffer from hyperactivity, absenteeism, and generally do worse both socially and academically in school. They are more likely to need special assistance or repeat a grade. And some of them may never catch up. When parents cannot afford healthy meals for their babies and toddlers, the consequences are potentially devastating. Failing to systematically and comprehensively address the issue of food insecurity among children - an issue that currently plagues over 12 million U.S. households - hurts their ability to succeed in school and in life. It also hinders the nation’s ability to develop the productive workforce that we need.”]

Research Brief: 6 p.

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject_foodinsecurity_200811_brief.pdf

Full text at: 51 p.

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject_foodinsecurity_200811_report.pdf

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State of the States: 2008 - FRAC’s Profile of Food and Nutrition Programs across the Nation. By Rachel Cooper and others. (Food Research and Action Center, Washington, DC) 2008. 130 p.

[“This annual report from FRAC is designed to provide basic data as one tool for helping government officials and agencies at all levels, advocates, schools, emergency food providers, afterschool and summer programs, religious congregations, other service providers and non-profits measure how they are doing in the effort to get key public nutrition programs to more people in need and to provide more adequate benefits. The data in this report describe the extent of hunger and food insecurity and the use of nutrition programs for the United States as a whole and for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, giving a snapshot of how well or badly each state is doing in using available tools to meet the needs of hungry people and improve the health and economic security low-income families.”]

Full text at: http://www.frac.org/pdf/SOS_2008_withcover_nov08.pdf

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Sharing Knowledge with Infant-Toddler Teachers and Home Visitors Series. By the Early Head Start National Resource Center at Zero to Three. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Head Start, Washington, DC) 2008. Various pageings.

[“‘Sharing Knowledge with Infant-Toddler Teachers and Home Visitors’ is a series of lessons that focuses on early development and quality services. One series is for infant toddler teachers and home visitors; the other for people who provide training. The series for infant toddler teachers and home visitors contains information and opportunities for reflection. The ‘Trainer’s Companion Manual’ provides additional information and ideas for training activities.” Publications in this series: ‘Serving Young Infants,’ ‘Serving Mobile Infants,’ ‘Serving Toddlers,’ ‘Trainers Companion Manual Serving Young Infants,’ ‘Trainers Companion Manual Serving Mobile Infants,’ ‘Trainers Companion Manual Serving Toddlers.’]

Full text of series at: <http://www.ehsnrc.org/Publications/Sharing%20Knowledge.html>

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IMPROVED HEALTH

“Neighborhood Greenness and 2-Year Changes in Body Mass Index of Children and Youth.” By Janice F. Bell and others. IN: **American Journal of Preventive Medicine**, vol. 35, no. 6 (December 2008) pp. 547-553.

[“Children living in city neighborhoods with higher ‘greenness’ ratings seem to gain less weight over time than their counterparts living in areas with less green space, a... study suggests. In the study, Dr. Janice F. Bell of the University of Washington in Seattle and colleagues followed more than 3,800 low income mainly African American children, 3 to 16 years old, who resided at the same address in Marion, County, Indiana, for 2 consecutive years. ‘We had their height and weight measured 2 years apart and linked that data to satellite images of the kids’ neighborhoods and found that the children who lived in greener neighborhoods did better weight-wise than kids who lived in less green neighborhoods,’ Bell told Reuters Health. Having greener surroundings was associated with lower body weight changes in the children, regardless of other residential density characteristics of the neighborhood.” Reuters Health (November 11, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0749-3797/PIIS0749379708007344.pdf>

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“Effect of Parents’ Wartime Deployment on the Behavior of Young Children in Military Families.” By Molinda M. Chartrand and others. IN: **Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine**, vol. 162, no. 11 (November 2008) pp. 1009-1014.

[“A study of preschool-age children in child care facilities at a Marine base found that those with a parent deployed overseas for war were more likely to show aggression than other young children in military families who did not have a parent deployed. While children 3 to 5 years old reacted to a parent's deployment with increased aggression, children between 1½ and 3 did not, prompting speculation about the mothers' role as the main attachment figure during this period of children's development. The preponderance of deployed parents was men.” NIEER Online Newsletter (November 14, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/162/11/1009>

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Child Health and Young Adult Outcomes. By Janet Currie and others. NBER Working Paper No. 14482. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) November 2008. 46 p.

[“Previous research has shown a strong connection between birth weight and future child outcomes. But this research has not asked how insults to child health after birth affect long-term outcomes, whether health at birth matters primarily because it predicts future health or through some other mechanism, or whether health insults matter more at some key ages than at others? We address these questions using a unique data set based on public health insurance records for 50,000 children born between 1979 and 1987 in the Canadian province of Manitoba. These children are followed until 2006, and their records are linked to provincial registries with outcomes data. We compare children with health conditions to their own siblings born an average of 3 years apart, and control for health at birth. We find that health problems, and especially mental health problems in early childhood are significant determinants of outcomes linked to adult socioeconomic status.”]

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14482>

(“.GOV” e-mail addresses can click on “Information for subscribers and others expecting no-cost downloads,” enter their e-mail address and be e-mailed a URL which will allow free access to the paper.)

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Depression During and After Pregnancy: Knowledge Path. By the Maternal and Child Health Library. (MCH Library, Georgetown University, Washington, DC) November 2008. Website.

[“‘Depression During and After Pregnancy: Knowledge Path’ is an electronic guide to recent resources about the prevalence and incidence of perinatal depression, identification and treatment, impact on the health and well-being of a new mother and her infant, and implications for service delivery. The knowledge path, produced by the MCH Library,

contains information on Web sites, publications, and databases. Separate sections present resources for professionals (health professionals, policymakers, program administrators, and researchers) and for women experiencing perinatal depression and their families.” MCH Alert (November 21, 2008.)]

Depression and Pregnancy Knowledge Path:

http://mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_postpartum.html

Other Knowledge Paths:

<http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/index.html>

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“State-Level Health Care Access and Use Among Children in US Immigrant Families.” By Stella M. Yu and others. IN: American Journal of Public Health, vol. 98, no. 11 (November 2008) 8 p.

[“Objectives. We examined the association between children’s state of residence and their access to health care among specific types of immigrant families: foreign-born children and parents, US-born children with 1 foreign-born parent, US-born children with both foreign-born parents, and nonimmigrant families. Methods. We analyzed data from 12400 children from the 2003 National Survey of Children’s Health in the 6 states with the highest proportion of immigrants (California, Florida, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, and Texas). Results. Multivariable analyses indicated that among foreign-born children, those living in California, Illinois, and Texas were more likely to lack access to health care compared with those living in New York. Among foreign-born children with 1 or 2 US-born parents, Texas children were most likely to lack health insurance. Within nonimmigrant families, children from California, Florida, and Texas had significantly more access and use problems.”]

Full text at: <http://www.ajph.org/cgi/reprint/AJPH.2007.117911v1>

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IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Child Care Subsidies and Child Development. By Chris M. Herbst, Arizona State University, and Erdal Tekin, Georgia State University. NBER Working Paper. No. 14474. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) November 2008. 46 p.

[“Child care subsidies are an important part of federal and state efforts to move welfare recipients into employment. One of the criticisms of the current subsidy system, however, is that it overemphasizes work and does little to encourage parents to purchase high-

quality child care. Consequently, there are reasons to be concerned about the implications of child care subsidies for child development. In this paper, we provide a systematic assessment of the impact of subsidy receipt on a wide range of child outcomes. Drawing on rich data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, we document a negative relationship between child care subsidies and child development. In particular, our results suggest that subsidy receipt in the year before kindergarten lowers reading and math test scores and increases a variety of behavior problems at kindergarten entry. Some of these negative effects persist to the end of kindergarten. A tentative explanation for the poorer outcomes is that subsidized children are more likely to receive intense exposure to low-quality child care.”]

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14474>

(“.GOV” e-mail addresses can click on “Information for subscribers and others expecting no-cost downloads,” enter their e-mail address and be e-mailed a URL which will allow free access to the paper.)

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Building Child Care into New Developments: A Guide for Creating Child Care Facilities in Transit-Oriented Developments. By Local Investment in Child Care. (LINCC, Bakersfield, California) 2008. 16 p.

[“An informational brochure for developers, local governments and transit agencies about the benefits, challenges and solutions related to integrating child care centers in residential or non-residential developments near transit stations.” LINCC.]

Full text at:

http://www.lincc-childcare.com/docManager/1000000191/lincc_dev_BR_web.pdf

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Infants and Toddlers in Child Care. By Julie Cohen, Zero to Three and Danielle Ewen, Center for Law and Social Policy. Policy Brief. (The Center, Washington, DC and Zero to Three, Washington, DC) October 2008. 11 p.

[“Zero to Three and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) have released a new joint policy brief.... The brief focuses on the unique position of Congress to support the early learning and development of our nation's youngest children by creating supports for, and expanding access to, quality child care for infants and toddlers. It offers policy recommendations for the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and other initiatives supported by CCDBG.” The Baby Monitor (November 10, 2008.)]

Full text at:

http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Infants_and_Toddlers_in_Child_Care_Brief.pdf?docID=6561

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STUDIES TO COME

[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America. By Paul Tough. (Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts) 2008. 304 p.

[“In the late 1990s, education-reform advocate Geoffrey Canada began an ambitious social experiment, pledging to do whatever it took to improve the lives of New York City's poor children. The Harlem Children’s Zone has since grown into a ninety-seven-block community-service project that includes Promise Academy charter schools, social services, parenting classes, and early-childhood-development and after-school programs. Through his innovative approach, Canada has demonstrated that it's possible to bridge the achievement gap if disadvantaged kids receive early, continuous educational opportunities.” NOTE: Whatever it Takes... will be available for loan.]

Article on the above book at: <http://www.edutopia.org/paul-tough-harlem-childrens-zone> (“Learning Zone: Harlem Project Gives Poor Students an Edge.” By Bernice Yeung, IN: Edutopia, November 19, 2008. 2 p.)

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The Sea is so Wide and My Boat is so Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation. By Marion Wright Edelman. (Hyperion Books, New York, New York) 2008. 176 p.

[“In America today, the gap between the rich and the poor is the greatest ever recorded - larger than any other industrialized nation. It has become far too easy to ignore the hardships of millions of children plagued by poverty, poor health, illiteracy, violence, adult hypocrisy, and injustice. As founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman knows all too well the suffering of so many of our nation’s children, who live every day with adversity most of us can barely imagine. In ‘The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small,’ Edelman asks difficult questions about what we truly

value, and looks hard at what we can - and must - do to build a nation fit for all children. With the passion and conviction that have made her our leading child advocate, she calls us all to stand up for the future of America. What have we done and what have we left undone? What lessons can we learn from our past and our present to realize a just and peaceful national and world vision for our children and grandchildren?" NOTE: The Sea is so Wide... will be available for loan.]

Video on above book on Book TV "After Words" - Marion Wright Edelman interviewed by Geoffrey Canada:

<http://www.booktv.org/program.aspx?ProgramId=9875&SectionName=After%20Words&PlayMedia=Yes>

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CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2008 OSEP National Early Childhood Conference - "Building Partnerships for Effective Change." Sponsored by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Pre-Conference workshops and meetings: December 6-7, 2008. Conference: December 8-10, 2008. Renaissance Washington Hotel, Washington, DC.

["The 2008 OSEP Conference is intended for a variety of audiences involved in planning and delivering services to young children with special needs (birth through age 8) and their families."]

For more information and to register:

<http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/national2008/mtghomepage.asp>

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Pre-K Now 2008 National Conference - "Breaking Down Barriers to Quality Pre-K: A National Strategy Session." Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Conference broadcast time is 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

["Each year, Pre-K Now produces a conference for pre-kindergarten advocates and supporters across the U.S. But, instead of making attendees travel to one central location, we produce a live television program for broadcast on satellite and the Internet and invite local communities to set up their own viewing sites, complete with pre- and post-broadcast activities if they so choose."]

For more information: <http://www.preknow.org/advocate/conference2008/>

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California Working Families Policy Summit - 2009. By the California Center for Research on Women and Families. January 13, 2009. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento, California.

[“There is no cost to attend the Summit, but you must register. The 6th Working Families Policy Summit will feature the state’s leading advocates presenting their legislative agendas for the upcoming year. Issues include health care, economic security, child care, preschool, after-school care, workplace issues and more! Also featuring Senate President pro Tempore-elect Darrell Steinberg as our luncheon keynote speaker.”]

For more information: <http://www.ccrwf.org/working/index.html>

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